

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY ITF:LDBROWN:ML

APPROVED BY ITF - AMB. BROWN

S/S - JPMOFFAT

M - MR. EAGLEBURGER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 118880 TOSEC 010167

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: FUTURE OF THE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM DEAN BROWN THROUGH EAGLEBURGER

1. PRESIDENT FORD SIGNED EXECUTIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES AT WHITE HOUSE SESSION ON MAY 19, BEFORE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND A GROUP OF ABOUT 250 REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERESTED CITIZENS GROUPS. AFTERWARD, I SPOKE TO THE ENTIRE GROUP FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR AND LATER IN THE AFTERNOON MET FOR A BRIEFING SESSION WITH THE SEVENTEEN MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. ON MORNING OF MAY 20, I TRAVELLED WITH JOHN EISENHOWER AND THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO FORT CHAFFEE FOR AN INSPECTION.

2. I TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT WE HAVE REACHED A TRANSITIONAL POINT. THE EARLY ISSUES RELATING TO THE EVACUATION HAD A HEAVY FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONTENT; NOW WE ARE DEALING WITH PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY RESETTLEMENT, WHICH ARE LARGELY DOMESTIC. I NOTED THAT THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS COMING INTO EXISTENCE AT THE RIGHT MOMENT TO FACILITATE THE TRANSITION FROM INTERNATIONAL TO DOMESTIC CONCERNS.

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3. CAP WEINBERGER HAS SENT A MEMO TO THE PRESIDENT ON YOUR SUGGESTION THAT HEW ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY. HE RECOGNIZES THE VALIDITY OF OUR ARGUMENTS AND THE LOGIC OF THE HEW

SELECTION, BUT SUGGESTS ALTERNATIVELY THE DESIGNATION OF ONE PERSON IN THE WHITE HOUSE TO HEAD THE NEW TASK FORCE, THE TRANSFER OF OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY TO OMB WHICH CONTROLS SLOTS AND FUNDING, OR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL BOARD SUCH AS THE CLEMENCY BOARD. THE WHITE HOUSE IS STUDYING THIS, BUT GENERALLY FAVORS THE HEW OPTION. EVEN IF WE GET RESOLUTION QUICKLY, ORGANIZATION WITHIN HEW OR ANOTHER AGENCY WILL NOT MOVE VERY FAST.

4. I AM COMMITTED TO RESUME MY RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE, THE ORIGINAL TWO WEEKS HAVING STRETCHED TO FIVE. MY DEPUTY MUST ALSO RETURN TO HIS REGULAR JOB. I BELIEVE THAT ON AN INTERIM BASIS, WE SHOULD EFFECT A TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY IMMEDIATELY AND WORRY LATER ABOUT WHICH ORGANIZATION WILL HAVE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RESETTLEMENT PROCESS. I BELIEVE THE PERSON MOST QUALIFIED TO HEAD THIS INTERIM ORGANIZATION (WHICH WOULD REMAIN HOUSED IN STATE UNTIL A FINAL DECISION ON WHO ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY HAS BEEN MADE) IS JULIA TAFT, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEW FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE WORK OF THE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE FROM THE BEGINNING AND HAS A SOLID UNDERSTANDING OF THE ENTIRE PROGRAM. I PROPOSE TO HAND OVER THE RESPONSIBILITIES TO HER AND WILL WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS WITH EAGLEBURGER TO MAKE SURE SHE GETS THE STAFF SHE NEEDS. WE'LL NAME FRANK WISNER AS HER DEPUTY. HE'S THE BEST OF THE VIETNAM-EXPERIENCED FSO'S I'VE FOUND.

5. IT HAS BEEN FUN TO BE BACK IN STATE AND I THINK THE TASK FORCE PERFORMED CREDITABLY. INGERSOLL

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